

AUGUST 1, 1882.

Mr. THOS. MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Fourteen persons present.

*Summer Migration of the Robin.*—Mr. THOS. MEEHAN remarked that Audubon, Nuttall, Wilson, and other eminent ornithologists, had suggested that the seasons had evidently not so much to do with the migration of birds, as the question of food, though most authors connected this question of food with the autumn or winter season. He said he had recently observed the migration of the robin (*Turdus migratorius*) in great numbers during the ten days prior to August 1, or on the evenings of those days, for the flight was from about sundown to dark. They came from the northwest, and were flying southeast. Some were but a few hundred feet, but others were so high as to be scarcely visible, which would indicate a long journey. Robins had abounded on his property in Germantown during the past spring and early summer. He might say, without exaggeration, there were many hundreds of them. On the day of this communication, August 1, it was rare to meet with one. He considered the question of disappearance wholly one of food. On his grounds there had been no rain of any consequence for two months. For two weeks past numerous trees and plants had to be kept alive by artificial watering. Examining the dry earth after the harrow, he found few signs of insect life. The cherry crop had been nearly a failure. The usual berried plants, such as dog-wood, on which they generally fed, were not ripe. There was really little for them to eat, and he had reason to believe that the same conditions prevailed all over northern Pennsylvania. In New Jersey, plants with berries were ripening, as they were also further south, and he concluded this search for food was in this instance the cause of the early migration.

*Night-closing in the Leaves of Purslane.*—Mr. MEEHAN noted that in the list of plants having diurnal or nocturnal motion, *Portulaca oleracea* did not appear. At sundown the leaves, at other times at right-angles with the stem, rose and pressed their upper surfaces against it. The morning expansion began with dawn, and soon after sunrise the leaves were fully expanded. Mr. Isaac Burk had also observed it, as also in an allied plant of the West Indies, *Talinum patens*.

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AUGUST 8, 1882.

Mr. THOS. MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Fourteen persons present.

*Colored Flowers in the Carrot.*—Mr. THOS. MEEHAN remarked